WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

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SOME STUDIES OF EARLY MANCHESTER

Our first meeting of the 1964-65 year, in September, 1964, was devoted to stories of the Manchester area, that unusual community in the southwest corner of the county. Since no manuscripts were prepared for the informal discussion presented by a group of our Manchester members, we are drawing on the bulky and valuable history of Manchester recently assembled by Miss Jane Palmer, retired librarian of Manchester's public library, second oldest library in Washtenaw County, with a continuing existence since 1838. Miss Palmer has presented a typed copy of her history to this society, which will be available in Michigan Historical Collections, Ann Arbor.

Settlement and Natural History of Manchester and Vicinity

By L. D. Watkins

[This delightful voice from the past was first read in 1893 before the Southwest Manchester's Farmers' Club, and was then published in the journal of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Association. Miss Palmer adds at the conclusion, "He is the elderly gentleman in a skull cap whose picture hangs in the People's Bank."]

Pioneers of Michigan, I come before you with feelings of profound respect, to recall again the old, old story and the incidents familiar now to but few of the millions of people in our great country.

You have seen this fair land before the hand of man had destroyed nature's perfect harmony. Your eyes have seen what no other eyes can see again; the transformation of a wilderness to a country covered with farms, dotted with cities and villages, ribboned with roads, and girdled by railroads, telegraph and telephone lines.

Never again will the vast succession of coming people know how beautiful this land was in nature. No pen-picture can describe the park-like plains and rolling openings or the solemn grandeur of the timber lands. No ear will hear again the howl of the wolf or the scream of the panther. Lost to all coming people is the spring-time bell-toned note of the prairie hen and the chant of the sandhill crane and wild turkey. No more forever will the rush of millions of migratory birds

darken the sun in their flights to and from their northern nesting places.

How beautiful and dear to our memories are those days of our own migration. My father, mother, brother, and three sisters left Keene, New Hampshire (I being the youngest of the family) for Michigan on the 9th of April, 1834. My father had purchased ten lots of land in Jackson county (T. 4 S., R. 2 E. on Secs. 13 and 24) the year previous. Hired teams conveyed us to Albany, New York, where we embarked on the Erie Canal for Buffalo, thence by steamboat to Detroit where two days were spent in procuring our outfit and supplies, a "breaking-up" team of four yoke of oxen, "breaking-up plow," and two wagons, on which were loaded our belongings. Two yokes of oxen were hitched to each wagon and with these, together with a horse and light wagon brought from New Hampshire, we started for our unknown home in the wilderness. We were six days on the road from Detroit to what is now Fairview Farm, a distance of 59 miles. Now from Watkins' Station, on the farm, we go to Detroit in 90 minutes. Our arrival was on the 10th of May, 1834, just one month from the day of our departure from New Hampshire.

Our nearest neighbors were on the west, seven miles; north, four miles; east, four miles; and south, six miles. Thus we were nearly in the center of a wilderness about ten miles in diameter, on which no white man had ever made a mark since the government survey. This tract of land was exactly on the center of the divide between the great coal and salt basins of Michigan on the north, and the coal, oil and gas deposits of Ohio and Indiana, on the south. This divide, running west by south, is remarkable for its varied surface and soil formations. The surface is a constant succession of plain, undulating and hilly lands with marshes and small areas of heavy timbered land. The soil is quite as varied; tenacious clay, sand, gravel and marsh can be found on a single farm.

The most remarkable feature of this part of the State (a tract 12 by 34 miles) is the great number of its deep,pure water lakes. To illustrate: Within five miles of my home are thirty-seven lakes, some of them quite large. All discharge water freely, forming the sources of five of the largest rivers in southern Michigan. In two hours I can drive you across the Raisin, Huron, Grand, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Rivers.

To summarize: This divide was a constant succession of plains, oak openings, marshes, lakes and rivers. The upland was covered with luxuriant grass and was the natural home of the deer, bear, wolf, panther, lynx and wildcat. The deer and wolves were in great numbers. The rich pastures of the openings, with convenient lakes in which to escape when pursued by wolves, made this section a paradise for deer. Beaver dams in earlier times had caused the overflow of fully one-third of the country. These dams were the origin of our marshes. These marshes at the time of pioneer settlement were the only source of winter feed for stock. The heavy growth sedge and coarse grass (marsh hay) made a good substitute for better hay before grass could be cultivated.

The flora and silva of this section is as varied as the soil and surface. Trees and flowers not common to this latitude were found in great numbers. On the openings, the principal timber trees were white, red, yellow pine, and burr oak, hickory and a few scrub oaks on the sand hills. On the border of streams, on the bluffs, and on the north side of lakes we found a great many trees that in the regular order of distribution would be far to the north or south of us. These strangers form, with our indigenous forests, a regular conglomerate of the forests of three sections each with its peculiar forest grove. From the southward we have the Buckeye, White Wood, Honey Locust, Kentucky Coffee-tree, Mulberry, Black Haw and many others. From the north came Hemlock, Pine and Spruce. The same is true of the admixture of trees and plants, local on the east and west borders of the State. These strangers are not of common distribution, but are generally found in small isolated groups. I believe that the only hemlocks in southern Michigan were on the east shore of Wampler's lake(T. 4 S., R. 2 E.), and they were cut down for

fence posts by vandals who supposed them to be cedars. One great surprise to all observers of the silva of this region, is the total absence of many kinds of trees for which the soil and climate are perfectly suited, as is proved by planting in after years. Such as beech, maple, basswood, elm, tulip-tree and others, which are common along streams and in groups all through this section, but are not generally distributed among other trees in the upland timber. Perhaps the great annual fires that swept this opening and plain land, destroyed all trees which had thin, tender bark or that did not reproduce themselves by sprouts from about the stump when the top was killed by fire.

The pioneer found that kind nature had anticipated his wants in an abundant supply of wild fruits and nuts. In succession came the delicious wild strawberry, blackberry, huckleberry, red and black raspberry, blue berry, grapes, plums and cranberries. Nuts were abundant; hickory, black walnut, butternut and hazelnut were abundant and were gathered and stored away for the evening gatherings of young and old around the broad fireplace and stick chimney on the long winter evenings. Of snakes there were an abundance, but only one was really dangerous, the massasaugas, and they were mostly confined to the swamps and marshes. The blow snake was still more feared (they are now extinct); their habit of inhaling air until greatly extended, and then exhaling a sickening breath caused all to fear them, but they were comparatively harmless, as were also the great blue racer, our most beautiful snake, and the black and spotted water snakes. Our lakes were well stocked with excellent fish: bass, pike, pickerel, perch, sunfish and bluegills were the most common and were easily taken, as were also the deer and wild fowl. Thus did nature furnish the pioneer with fish, flesh, fowl, and fruit in the greatest abundance.

Thereis to the pioneer no more pleasant recollections of these early days than that of the wild flowers. First to greet the homesick stranger was hepatica, she seemed to open her sunny fragrant bloom on purpose to give cheer and comfort. But hepatica was only the herald of coming beauties. One wave of her blue bonnet as she left us, and there commenced a succession of flowers seldom found in any other country. Maples, birches and alders spring into life. The little kittens of the willow begin to show their furry coats. A bloom seems to be gathering along the tree tops of the water courses; our two elms and the red elm file into line flanked by the red maple; cowslips and the skunk cabbage meet you on the wet, springy borders of marshes and springs; the buds of oak, hickory and sassafras are striving to outgrow each other; trilliums, violets in all kinds of soils, except the bird-foot violet, which is found on light sands only. Now comes the June berry (three kinds) with its cloud of white in perfect contrast with the surroundings of green and brown. April, says Dr. Beal, should giveus fifty plants and trees in bloom and in May more than one hundred. In June our woods and plains were covered with flowers, some of which are now nearly extinct. Painted cup, lady slippers, phlox, mandrakes, rosin weed, lillies, roses, closed gentians and golden rods. Finally, when the frosts and north winds come, we have only the fringed gentian in its robe of blue and purple, and the witch hazel with petals of gold, to close the gateway of summer.

"These beautiful children of glen and dell,
The dingle deep, the woodland stretching wide,
and of the mossy fountain side.
Ye on my heart have thrown a lovesome spell,
And though the worldlings' scorning may deride,
I love ye all."

A Brief Review of Jane Palmer's Manchester History

"The Palmer History" referred to above is a composite. The basic material was assembled by Annetta English many years ago. To this, Jane Palmer has added letters, wills, family histories written by survivors of old Manchester families, stories of old memories, with more or less official records of schools, churches, clubs, business places, "the Lyceum," etc. One notes an account of "Manchester in 1871" written in verse 50 years later (i.e., in 1921) by Nathaniel Schmid, son of our famous German missionary, Frederick Schmid. A long letter from William G. Fargo, Jackson engineer and industrialist, not only gives a careful history of his own family, but appends an explanation of the early three-cornered drainage tile, with hand done mechanical drawings of its construction.

Some of the most charming of the write-ups are from the pen of Miss Palmer herself, such as the character sketches of her own grandparents and of the quaint and witty lady, Annetta English, and the account of the small boy's fairly recent discovery of "a hidey hole" that was surely a remnant of the Underground Railroad.

In a personal letter to your editor, Miss Palmer has answered a query about the row of handsome old brick houses that line Ann Arbor Hill Street as we enter the village from the north. According to Mr. Frank Schaffer, she says, their construction date was before 1857,- after "the great fire" of 1853. His information as to the early occupants is as follows, proceeding north from town:

1. The house nearest the old Ypsilanti-Hillsdale Railroad, builder unknown.
2. Dr. Bennett Root.
3. Chancey Wulbridge, Postmaster.
4. Dr. Conklin.
5. Edward Jaynes.
6. Franklin Freeman, a lawyer

On the east side of Ann Arbor Hill Street, the biggest brick house of all was built by J. D. Corey.

East of the houses was "the common," eighty acres of pasture, for "in those idyllic days every family had its own cow." Miss Palmer concludes: "A former resident who came back in 1857 speaks of the handsome new houses where dense undergrowth used to make a cover for deer as they crossed the road."

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THE SETTLEMENT OF THE GERMANS IN WASHTENAW COUNTY

By Emerson E. Hutzel

A paper read at the February meeting of the Society

I feel very flattered to have been asked to speak to you tonight. I have been interested in the history of Michigan for many years, despite the fact that I spent most of my adult life elsewhere, to be exact, 50 years. But, having been a teacher, I always managed to spend my summers here, thus coming home for vacation and going elsewhere to work. I spent 44 years at Cleveland High School in St. Louis, Mo., and never once referred to that city or state as home.

Some time ago I was asked to prepare a history of Bethel Church in Freedom Township, for distribution at its 125th anniversary this fall. This is one of the several early churches founded by the pioneer pastor, Fr. Schmid, and since one cannot easily or properly dissociate a church from its environment, and since Freedom Twp. might be called the capital of Michigan Schwabia, my report will be a story of both.

The first German settlers came to this area in the early 1830's, for the same reasons that others did, namely, because of the unsettled political and economic conditions in Europe following the Napoleonic wars.

The very first of these settlers were:

(1) Jonathan Heinrich Mann, a tanner, who came to America landing in Philadelphia in 1824. Not finding what he wanted, he left for Mexico. He had a most adventurous trip on horseback from Vera Cruz to Mexico City, being once attacked by bandits. He did not like the country, and returned to the United States and decided to locate in Reading, Pa., where he started a tannery. In 1826 he sent for his wife and 3 children: Emanuel, who later became a druggist in Ann Arbor, and served one term as Senator in the Michigan Legislature; Louise, who became the wife of Rev. Fr. Schmid; and Sophie, who married August Hutzel.

(2) Philip Schilling.

(3) Daniel Allmendinger, whose distant relative, David, in 1888 organized the Organ Co. A daughter of David, Helene, became a well-known concert singer.

(4) Conrad Bissinger, who arrived in Ann Arbor in 1825, then went to Charleston, S.C., till 1831, at which time he returned to Ann Arbor.

At first the lack of accomodations made it necessary for these first arrivals to open their homes, even their barns, to the new arrivals, until they in turn could find or build their own log cabins, and in turn serve as hostelers to yet other immigrants. Among these we find Jakob Jedele and John Beck, of Scio Twp.

It was this trio of Mann, Schilling, and Allmendinger who called Pastor Friedrich Schmid in 1833 to organize a German Church, the first one in Michigan.

The first service was held in a schoolhouse about 4 miles west of Maple Road, on what was then known as Territorial Road, our present Jackson Ave. Later that year a log (walnut) church was erected on a site now part of Bethlehem Cemetery. The exact spot is marked by a huge boulder and a bronze plaque placed there in 1925. The speakers on that occasion were Fr. Mayer and Dr. J. Balzer. I recall that the latter said that "Scio" was from the Latin verb meaning "to know." The one acre of land for the church was donated by Mr. Allmendinger, and the building cost $265.32. The total Sunday offering for the first year amounted to $13.29.

This church became the first of more than 20 churches to be founded by Pastor Schmid in southeastern Michigan, in an area bounded on the east by Monroe, and on the west and north by Marshall, Lansing, and Sebewaing. He did his first missionary work on foot and later on horseback. A more dedicated man could not have been found.

During his busy career he served not only as pastor, but also as lawyer, interpreter, translater, and teacher. And busy as he was, he never forgot his Alma Mater, the Basler Mission in Basel, Switzerland. During the 46 years between 1833 and 1879 he sent 51 letters to the old Seminary, never failing to enclose a money gift despite his meager income. Some years ago I made a translation of these letters, an estimated 75,000 words. Here are the last two:

Ann Arbor, January 7, 1879

Dear Inspector and Brother in Christ:

Just a sign of life. My hand trembles. My bodily strength is weak. My love for the Basel Mission is strong; I take a hearty interest in her joys, struggles and sufferings; thanks to God I can still pray.

I am sending herewith $20, of which $5 is for the hungry in South India, and $15 for the Mission. Please receipt this in your paper. The Lord be our rod and our staff so that we may not fall.

Heartiest greetings to you and the dear committee. My wife also greets you and your family.

Your brother in the Lord, Fr. Schmid

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Ann Arbor, February 5, 1880

Dear Inspector:

My dear husband, Rev. Fr. Schmid, has given me his gift of $15 for the Basel Mission, and has asked me to write a few

lines about his enduring interest in the Mission, inasmuch as his constantly increasing bodily weakness makes it impossible for him to do so himself.

He feels himself closely united with the Mission House in Basel and constantly takes the warmest interest in its struggles and victories. He commends himself to the intercession of the Lord and wishes you and the work of the Lord success in the future.

In sincere love and respect I join my dear husband in extending greetings; also heartiest greetings to Mrs. Jaeger,

Louise Schmid, nee Mann

In the selection of a helpmate, Pastor Schmid had it much easier than another early German Pastor, Jakob Furer (1863-1913), whose interesting autobiography I translated a year or so ago, for he wrote home to a family friend who had a marriageable daughter, proposing to her. She replied that she would be willing to accept, but that she felt that she couldn't cook well enough for a pastor in America. To this he replied: "Don't let that worry you, for I have nothing to cook." His annual income was about $180, or about 50¢ a day. I might add that the young lady came, and the couple spent many happy years together.

Area Churches

The first church was recorded in the public records as "The First German Society in Scio." The date was 1833.

1836 - Salem was organized in Scio Twp., on Scio Church Rd. at Strieter Rd.
1840 - Bethel in Freedom Twp.
1845 - Bethlehem, a branch in town
1842 - Thomas in Freedom on Ellsworth Rd.
1853 - St. Johns in Bridgewater
1855 - St. Pauls in Chelsea
1859 - St. Johns in Northfield

Services were held in the Weinette home in Saline and in the J. Ehrmann home in Ypsilanti. Services were also held in homes in Rogers Corner and Manchester. The early baptismal records for Bridgewater and Manchester are in Freedom.

August Hutzel was very active in church work, and took charge of the service in the absence of Pastor Schmid, reading the sermon from Stark's book of sermons. The copy he used is now in my possession. In pre-organ days, he played the flute to lead the singing. I also have the Hutzel family Bible, printed in 1716, brought to America in 1844. One is impressed by the age of this book when one stops to think that it was printed 60 years before the Declaration of Independence was signed.

The Change-over in Language

The German language remained the language of the church until 1928, when as a result of war psychology following World War I, the following actions were taken:

English was introduced in "one part of the Sun. School" on May 11, 1926.

Resolved, Jan. 4, 1928, that after confirmation in March, 1928, one church service a month was to be in English.

Resolved, Jan. 2, 1929, that Synodical Songbooks (English) were to be purchased, and that English services were to be conducted twice a month.

Resolved, Jan. 2, 1944, to drop German Services on the 3rd Sunday, thus leaving one German service on the first Sunday of the month.

Resolved, Jan. 4, 1948, to translate the Church Constitution from German to English. The new Constitution was adopted on Nov. 6, 1948.

A motion was made and carried, in Jan., 1956, to discontinue German service, but leave the matter up to the Pastor and Church Board to have special German services with communion.

The Birth of a Dialect

Dialects are born of isolation and concentration, and need only time and widespread use to give them the status of a language. During the 100 years that German was used to record the minutes of the church, English equivalents frequently were introduced. This was particularly so when the English word was a monosyllable and the German, a polysyllable; e.g., "pail" for Eimer; "barn" for Scheune; "fence" for Unzaeunung, etc. An exception to the rule was "wisski" for Schnapps.

The following is a paragraph taken from the minutes of the Jan. 10, 1877, meeting, page 57:

"Dann wurde der Vorschlag gemacht und angenommen dass die Kirch in- und ausseith gebenth soll werden, und nemlich ausse-seith wenn notwendig drei mal gepenth werden, und inseith zwei mahl penthen anbelangt; Fenster und Bleins wen es das Comithe fuer das beste haelt; die Still sollen zwei gutz haben, und die Lehne an den Still sollen gewarnischt werden. Die Kansel, der Altar, das gelenther, die Sackrestei und Orkel und die Vorseith der Borthkirch und Pfosten und die Seithing an den Fenster, Dieses alles soll gewarnischt werden."

Here are just a few of the adopted words taken from the church records: Keckfoll; borth; korth; biems; weitlet (Bleiweiss); flor; graeffel; (Kiesgrober Sand); lumber, karpet; pump, ceder; firnis; brickhaus; heckerie (weise Waldnus); schaetz; weitwasch.

If circumstances, the war, media of intercourse such as newspapers, easy and rapid transportation, telephones, television and radio, had not limited its time of existence to a single century, it would in all probability have become as rich and as extensive as its predecessor, Pennsylvania Dutch, with its classic line: "Die Kow ist eber die Fenss dejumpt und hat die Kabbages abge-eated."

One of the Freedom farmers, upon seeing a Dachshund for the first time, inquired, "What for a dog is dot?"

An Ann Arbor resident who didn't wish to appear German, upon discovering that her dog had gotten loose, excitedly shouted, "Who tied dot dog loose?"

Many area residents now living, born at the turn of the century, have pronounced accents. Just recently I heard one of them say "ofer" for over. Lawrence Welk would feel himself very much at home with these people.

It was by mere chance that I myself grew up without an accent. My father's farm was located along the Freedom-Bridgewater township line, with part of his farm in each township, because of which we had the choice of either the Short District in Bridgewater, or the Silver Lake District School in Freedom Twp. The former district had just enough "Yankee" families to bring about the use of English in playground activities.

When I taught the latter school in 1909-10, the playground tongue was Swabian. I recall hearing such expressions as "Du Rindviech, du ueber-zwaerichs, mawrum schmeischt du den d' Bahl selt nah!" One youngster came in during recess and asked, "Teacher, have you got a Schubindel?" A certain man named Ryan who lived on the Freedom-Lodi town-line spoke Swabian perfectly. I asked him "How come?" He replied, "My mother was born in Stuttgart." Rev. Schoen, whose parents spoke only High German, told me that he learned the dialect in the English School.

Family Names

The Swabian people must have been of short stature at the time when surnames were handed out, for we find the diminutive form used with great frequency; e.g., Schaible, Stierle, Jedele, Eisele, Maehrle, Trinkle, Beuerle, Dieterle, Broesamle.

This diminutive "le" is the abbreviation of the High German "lein" which in turn corresponds to the English "let," used in booklet, leaflet, etc. The Daeuble family attempted to adopt an Americanized form in "Diuble," which only made it unpronounceable in German and very confusing in English.

Another common Swabian name-ending is "inger," as in Hildinger, Allmendinger, Heimerdinger, Schillinger, and Soeckinger. This is an old German word-ending used to indicate "resident of", a co-relative of "ingen," which meant "residence of." The area around Stuttgart in Wuerttemberg abounds with such place-names as Esslingen, Allmendingen, Tuttlingen, Tuebingen, Reutlingen, Echterdingen, etc.

In German the soft "G" is used in the family names ending in "inger." In Americanizing the name some families have used the hard"G"; e.g., Killinger, Soeckinger, etc.

Many place-names in southwest Germany terminate with "weiler;" e.g., Erdmanweiler, Poppenweiler, Pfalzgrafenweiler. This ending corresponde to the English terminal "ville" or "village."

Place of Origin

The majority of the Germans who settled in Lima, Lodi, Scio, and Freedom townships came from the province of Wuerttemberg in southwest Germany. A few came from Kurhessen - the Kuhlenkamps, Reyers, Guthardts, Weidenbachs, and the Sacks. These latter settled in and around Bridgewater village, which becauseof it became known as Hesse Cassel. Even to this day it is now and then heard, and the name is actually perpetuated currently in the local chapter of the Farm Bureau, called "Kossel."

A number of Swabian families came into the country in a round-about way from Bessarabia in southwest Russia, located between the Black Sea and Rumania, where a colony had settled in 1815. These were the Bihlmeyers, Merzes, Wiedmans, and the Traubs.

Vital Statistics

Of the 205 persons who died in the 25 years between 1891-1916, 118, or 55%, had been born in the United States, and 92, or 45%, in Germany. Of the 92 who were born in Germany, 75 came from the Black Forest area of Wuerttemberg, while 17 came from other parts of Germany, namely, 5 from Hesse-Cassel, 2 each from Baden, Bavaria, and Westphalia, and 1 each from Silesia, Hesse, Bessarabia, and the Rhenpfalz. Thus, 81.5% were of Swabian origin.

That such a high percent as 55 had been born in the United States may at first seem surprising, but one must take into account the high rate of mortality of infants and teenagers - 42 were less than one year of age, and 15 did not survive teen-age.

One of Pastor Schmid's records gives the ages attained by more than 200 of this area's pioneers in the middle 1800's:

42 were less than 1 year	16 died in their 50's
5 died before their 10th	27 died in their 60's
10 died in their teens	37 died in their 70's
13 died in their 20's	20 died in their 80's
12 died in their 40's	1 died in the 90's

According to an insurance report in 1958, life expectancy was at that time 60 years if male, and 72 if female, average 69, thus showing a gain of 25 years during the century (1850-1950).

Much of this increase must be attributed to medical advance, and to better living conditions, particularly for infants. It will be noted in the above table that 20% of the individuals failed to live one year. Bethel records show that one family alone lost 6 children in infancy and early teen age.

Births

Pastor Schmid recorded 3,865 births during the 30 years between 1845-75. It is interesting to note where these infants were born, for that gives some idea as to the extent of the area in which he served.

Ann Arbor. . .	1,258	Waterloo. . .	109	Wayne. . . .	43
Freedom	741	Bridgewater	75	Saline	33
Scio	473	Ypsilanti	69	Pittsfield	33
Marshall	306	Lima	66	E. Portage	24
Lodi	299	Plymouth	54	Webster	24

Jackson, Sylvan, Lansing, Allegan, Dexter, Chelsea, ranged from 24 to 10, and there were 50 miscellaneous places.

The causes of death among 107 were:

pneumonia. . . .	18	strokes. . . .	11	convulsions	5
old age	16	meningitis	8	heart attacks	5
stillborn	13	heart trouble	8	miscellaneous	4
tuberculosis	13	stomach cancer	7	not given	27

It is interesting to note the prevalence of tuberculosis, and the absence of diphtheria and smallpox, and to read the comments of Dr. A. C. Fuerstenberg, Dean of the School of Medicine of the University of Michigan, to whom I submitted the report for comment.

"It is true that the incidence of tuberculosis among teen-agers during these years was great. Tuberculosis, being a disease that attacks young people, was a great menace to the young adults of every family. There was no adequate treatment for it. It was many years later that the medical profession learned that pulmonary tuberculosis is a disease that tends to get well if you give it a chance. The treatment now consists of absolute rest, good nourishing food, and in certain types of the disease the antibiotics are employed with outstanding results.

"I am not surprised that there was little mention of cancer. The disease from 1850 to 1900 was overlooked in many instances. And I am not surprised that you failed to find deaths attributed to diphtheria or smallpox. Both are epidemic diseases which are often limited to isolated areas. Moreover, it is highly probable that many of the German settlers had been vaccinated against smallpox in Germany."

Roads

The first road to be built into and through the county was the Chicago Pike, built in 1825. Since this by-passed Ann Arbor, it became necessary to build a spur from Ypsilanti; this was started in 1830, and gradually was extended westward along the present Jackson Road to Grand River. Road building was an arduous task. A record of the laying out of the local roads may be found in the records of the townships, some of which are available for study upon application to the township clerk.

Prior to the time when the roads were built, a trip to Detroit to procure necessities, such as flour, consumed the better part of a week. From the history of the Jedele family, part of which settled in Scio Township, we learn that it was the practice of some male members of the family to make an annual trip afoot to Sebewaing in the Thumb, 125 miles distant, to visit kinsmen who settled in that area. To accomplish this, it was often necessary to blaze a part of the trail.

Karl Neihard, German botanist, in his "Reise nach Michigan," who visited this area in 1834, a translation of which appeared in the March, 1951, issue of Michigan History, reports as follows: "The roads in Michigan, and most especially the 40 miles from Detroit to Ann Arbor, are, because of the lack of stone, the most abominable roads I have ever seen in the United States. Every 3 paces one encounters tremendous holes and big tree stumps, and it requires great skill to circumnavigate them, a skill I am told possessed by but few, since accidents are of frequent occurrence."

Mail

I presume that people in those early days appreciated getting mail even more than we do today. This was difficult enough in a settlement like Ann Arbor which had roughly 1000 in 1830, 2000 in '40, 4000 in '50, and 8000 in 1860. But it

presented a real problem in outlying areas like Freedom, 15 miles or more away. This was particularly true prior to the building of the railroad, which progressed as follows: Ypsilanti in 1838, Ann Arbor in '39, Dexter in '41, and Kalamazoo in 1846. The Bridgewater line did not become a reality until several decades later; and when it did, and when the postoffice went to Eckert near the church, mail was gotten from there instead of from Chelsea, at a saving of about 6 miles.

An examination of early county maps, 1874, will show a postoffice named Fredonia in Freedom. The origin of the name is not known, but one may surmise that it was based on the name of the township. The so-called postoffice was located in a farm home, and was a political appointment. The pay was meager, based upon stamp cancellations - a check showed that on an average it amounted to around $15 a year, and while this wasn't "hay," it did provide a bit of rare cash for staple groceries. The mail at this time was picked up once a week in Chelsea, 11 miles distant.

Since it was a political appointment, it was of necessity an ambulatory station. In 1874 it was located in the Pfitzemaier home on Waters Road. Pfitzemaier was the maternal grandfather of the present Supervisor, Edwin Schaible; he was a Republican and served during Grant's administration. With the election of Cleveland in 1881, it was given to Henry Renau, a Democrat, who lived on Ellsworth Road. Henry was a cousin of the father of the late Will Reno, for many years Town Clerk. With the election of McKinley in 1893, Republican, the office was given to John Vogel at Pleasant Lake.

In 1897 the office was moved to the corner of Schneider and Bethel Church Roads to a frame annex of the log house then occupied by Fr. Eckert and family, and at that time was known as "Eckert" and not Fredonia. With the coming of Rural Free Delivery around 1900, the use of the Annex was discontinued, and in 1905 it was moved to and attached to the framed-over log house of Martin Hieber, a quarter of a mile west, and became and still is the family kitchen.

Our Changing Times

In the beginning farming was the chief occupation, with perhaps an occasional blacksmith, innkeeper, preacher and teacher. Today only about 40% of the residents of the area make their livelihood entirely from agriculture - and now we have any number of persons who are employed in neighboring towns, in factories and businesses of various kinds. The automobile has made it possible for former members to work in distant places and to retain their memberships in the old rural communities and work 15 or even 30 or more miles away.

Our rural churches and communities have put on a "New Look," both externally and internally. The appearance of "Dutchiness" which was so obvious and prevalent a half century ago has been completely wiped out. The melting pot has done such an excellent job of Americanizing by eliminating the old and assimilating the new, that Europeans can now spot Americans "a mile away!"

The area, which once was 100% German, now boasts at least 10 families with English names, such as Green, Wheeler, Munson, Wilson, Powell, Brooks, Hayes, Little, Peirsol, and Sweetland; one Italian, Vitale; and one Slavic, Yuhasz.

In Conclusion

When one sees what a hard life Europeans, particularly the rural ones, have even today, we descendants should be eternally grateful that our ancestors had the fortitude to come to America, which wasn't easy. My paternal great-grandfather was 59, and brought 10 children ranging from 17 on down. Mrs. Jonathan Mann, of the pioneer family, reported that their trip was a big undertaking, "one that required great stamina and determination." She and her 3 children started in the early spring of 1826 and traveled down the Rhine, their boat tying up every night, and they having to seek shelter in an Inn in a nearby village or town. In Rotterdam they stayed 6 weeks before they got a packet for Philadelphia. Their ocean

voyage lasted 73 days, think of it - 2½ months!

If these pioneer settlers had one characteristic in common, it was that of industry, always coupled with the philosophy of leaving the world a little bit better place in which to live. They always aimed to make a few more bricks than they laid for their own use - both physical and spiritual, for the benefit of the generations that were yet to come. It was a wooded wilderness and swamp area that they found; and this they converted into a prosperous farming area replete with fine farm buildings, business establishments, schools and churches. I am sure that the angels in heaven frequently exclaimed, "Well done, ye good and faithful servants!"

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THE SETTLEMENT OF THE IRISH IN WASHTENAW COUNTY

By Judge Francis O'Brien

The preliminary draft of a talk given before the Society at the March meeting.

It is indeed a matter of personal pride for me to appear here tonight to speak to you on the subject of the Irish settlement in Washtenaw County. There are emotions which this occasion brings to me because it at once raises the nostalgia of long forgotten faces, people that are now gone and that were especially kind to me and without whose help I would not be here tonight.

The Irish have contributed much to the culture of this country and of this community. In order to understand and appreciate their contributions and the part they played, and perhaps many of the misunderstood events that occurred, we must know the background from which they came and the historical setting. I hope that what I have to say tonight will help to awaken an interest in the Irish people, and may awaken in those people who have Irish blood in their veins a desire to inquire into the history of their people and particularly the contributions of their own relatives.

To bring this to mind I may quote for you many areas which perhaps are not well understood and perhaps you have not heard of before. I should like to begin by playing one song - a beautiful song - which expresses the yearning of the exiled for his country and perhaps some of the true feeling of the Irish people. The book entitled "In Search of Ireland" expresses the feeling of the Irish in Ireland: that he may be behind the hedgerow in working clothes with a pitchfork in his hand while he watches the lords and the nobility riding with the hounds across the land, and in his heart he believes that he is the descendant of kings and scholars, and the land which he surveys was stolen from his ancestors. I believe this is expressed in the song which I shall play for you now. It is entitled, "Shall My Soul Pass Through Ireland?"

* * *

My own folk with many of their acquaintances came from Ireland in the early 1800's. My people arrived here in 1830 and in 1850, a time when the Irish in Ireland were defined as "paupers in paradise."

The Irish tenant farmer planted potatoes in the early spring because it was a crop that looked after itself. Then he turned his wife and his children out on the roads to beg. He himself went to England to search for work, for there was none for him in Ireland. If work was lacking, he too became a beggar. When fall came, he returned to his plot, harvested his potatoes, and using these and whatever money the family had gleaned in the summer months, contrived to get through the desolation of winter until the cycle could be repeated again.

In order to acquire sufficient money to pay the passage to America it was necessary to scrape together every available asset. The people that had left in the period preceding the potato famine in 1840, and that emigrated here anywhere from 1825 through 1840, apparently read the handwriting on the wall and were able

to liquidate some of their assets, so that in this era they arrived in America with some money. It is probably for this reason that they came on west. Some followed the Erie Canal, working their way. Others migrated overland and eventually arrived in Washtenaw County, where they were able to buy some land from the Government at $1.25 an acre, and some from previous purchasers who had become discouraged with the burdensome task of hewing a farm out of the wilderness. This was the basis for the Irish settlement.

The one which I am most familiar with is that of Northfield Township, which had a heavy concentration of Irish settlement. At an early period the people who settled here were able to send money back to Ireland, and this helped to finance others who had intended to come over. Passage to this country cost in the neighborhood of 30 to 35 dollars, which in those days was a considerable amount of money. In addition to this, the emigrants were required to provide their own food en route, and the passage would take from 4 to 10 weeks. According to my records, my grandfather, Michael O'Brien, left Cork, Ireland, on April 4, 1832, and arrived in New York on July 1. This was a long voyage,- longer on the water than was Columbus. Before leaving his plot of land, the emigrant planted as many potatoes as he could. Of course if possible he would delay his departure until the crop was harvested. For food on the voyage he took with him sacks of potatoes, and the neighbors filled out from their own meager store what they could spare. Sometimes a bag of potatoes was traded for a bag of meal. Finally at the ritual of parting, a member of the family would pick up a handful of earth and put it in the cloth to be given to the one that was leaving to ease the anguish of the parting.

The immigrants who came after the prolonged famine, however, in the later 1840's, in most instances had little more than their fare plus the food for the voyage. The way across was difficult. Ships were overcrowded. Disease was rampant. Most of the immigrants were illiterate, but had, to sustain them, stories of their great heroes of the past: how Oisin, son of Fin, visited the land of the Ever Young, and how the warriors of the great Fin had taken as their motto, "A man lives after death, but not after honor." The Irish mythology describing the ordeal of the peasants in the land of the Ever Young is as follows:

> Now on the borders of the land of the Ever Young was a bleak and evil place, set about by darkness, and heavy with the smell of decay. This was the land of Fomor, who was the enemy of Hope, and the master of all the Demons and Goblins in the world, and his breath was like the smell of the clothes that are wrapped around the Dead. And Oisin set out to conquer Fomor, for in the land of Fomor he heard the cries of his companions in Ireland.

In relating specifically the experiences and the history and the problems of the immigrants I am going to refer to quite an extent to those of my own family. In this area I have examined the records and endeavored to compile some of the history. I find it impossible in a speech of this kind to cover completely the many areas and the many families that settled in the county. I hope I may awaken an interest in many of you to examine the history of your own people, whether they migrated from Ireland or from other countries, and that in making the examination you may find what I have to say about my own people of assistance to you.

Records are extremely difficult to find unless the individual served in the armed forces or was engaged in some other activity which might be recorded in the Government archives. One good source of information is the county records. There are two types of records of especial value, one pertaining to the intention to become a citizen, the other the petition to become a citizen. In making the search I have attempted to run down every record on the O'Briens, McCourts, Coyles, McCabes, and Howards. My only regret is that I was not able to talk with many of my relatives while they were alive from whom clues could have been obtained for the search of the families back in Ireland.

One bit of family tradition, however, linked up with my research. My grand-

mother, whose maiden name was Howard, came to this country with her parents in 1850 when she was twenty. There were two families in the group, two brothers, the fathers, being Timothy and William Howard. Each had five children. Presumably they were a long time on the water. One brother died and was buried at sea, and the other died one year after they arrived in this country. They came to Northfield because relatives named Ryan had migrated there earlier. With the help of the Ryans, the two widows and ten children carried through and made their start. I attempted to trace this down through the Probate Court records, and in the will of Catherine Howard, my grandmother's younger sister, who died in 1906, she provided:

> I bequeath to Northfield Parish a certain sum of money to be used to purchase a marker for the cemetery where my father and mother lie buried.

[Judge O'Brien's manuscript ends here, although he continued extemporaneously to give experiences of his own relatives and the Northfield community. He presented to the Society a copy of a pamphlet of interesting pioneer and family history written by Sister M. Evangelista of Lefevre Institute, Kalamazoo, in 1914. Her family name was Agnes Cope. She traces the various branches of the Coyle family, prominent in the development of Northfield. Her own mother and Judge O'Brien's grandmother were cousins, daughters of two of the pioneer Coyle brothers who helped build the Northfield Parish Church.

We quote here two especially vivid passages. Thomas Coyle and his wife, Anne Boylan, and their four small children, were among the Irish immigrants who came to Northfield in its early settlement.]

> Other relatives having purchased land from the government in Northfield, Washtenaw County, they were persuaded to join them, suffering many privations, even hunger, before reaching their destination. Washtenaw County was then an unbroken wilderness, inhabited by only a few whites and Indians. Perhaps no other county in the state has such an abundance of beautiful lakes. On the shores of one of these, Horse Shoe, was their humble home. They soon began to clear the forests, and erect a little log house. Boiled nuts and fish were their principal meal for a time. There were no lamps, no candles, no gas, no electricity as now. The bright burning fireplace was what sufficed most families, though they used two other lights consisting of a bowl or a tin cup half filled with oil or grease with a cotton wick, held up by a wooden cover with a small hole in the center. There were no matches. Fire was kept in the fireplace, where many an enjoyable hour was spent relating tales of "the Old Sod," or started with a flint and steel that threw sparks on dry punk or tinder. There were no mattresses or feather beds, but often a bunk of leaves or cat-tails were all they had on which to repose.
>
> They were much distressed in having no church services, when they received much encouragement by Father Kelly visiting their homes, saying Mass, baptizing their children, etc. It was not long, however, before they built the little log church, on the same spot where the pastoral residence now stands. Father Morrissey was appointed parish priest, and in 1864 Northfield had the honor of being one of the first parishes in the Diocese of Detroit. This church is now replaced by a beautiful edifice, with sweet sounding bells pealing forth a joyful welcome to all, the Coyle brothers being on the building committee. Grandfather's brothers were: Owen, Patrick, Alexander, and Hugh.

[The large Cope family moved to a farm just over the border in Wayne County in 1876, where the following experiences occurred.]

about a mile away. Sometimes not finding sale for his load, he brought

Perhaps the most valuable product on this farm was the chestnut grove, the trees of which were magnificent and stately. Chestnuts grow in burs, lined as it would appear with plush, containing three or five nuts. These nuts ripen when the frost comes, and fall to the ground in September and October, and last almost as long as one can stand the cold weather to gather them. This work was done by all of us, no matter how small; one could always find a few. It was a time of year to which we all looked forward. While it was hard work, it was enticing and enjoyable. We would start out early in the morning with the determination of seeing who could have the most gathered on our return at noon. Sometimes they sold as high as $14 a bushel, then again they took a fall to $4 or $5. Others besides the squirrels liked to bother us, and often at night we were aroused by the reflection of lanterns from our windows, when the town boys were gathering them. It did not take long then for father and the boys to scatter the merry-making crowd with their big dog. Having thus been disturbed for several nights, all were tired this particular night, and someone conceived the idea of fixing up a dummy-man and placing him in a chair near the window with his big pipe in his mouth. It worked fine, and he often held this honorary position.

Detroit being the nearest market, father would start about one o'clock in the morning to be there early. If he was fortunate to get early customers, he would be back about 4 or 5 in the afternoon; if not, it was sometimes quite late. All our vegetables, chickens, pork, etc., were marketed in this way. Another time he started off with a live calf for market; when he stopped at the toll gate he missed it and had to return. To his surprise, it was grazing on St. Mary's Church grounds, about a mile away. Sometimes not finding sale for his load, he brought it to the Sisters. We heard him relate that on one occasion, finding no buyers for his potatoes and ducks, he delivered them to the Little Sisters of the Poor. He was doubly repaid for his offering, seeing the pleasure it afforded them as they said they knew St. Joseph would come to their aid, for they had nothing in the house for their dinner, or for the old people.

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GLIMPSES OF ANN ARBOR 100 YEARS AGO

By Russell E. Bidlack

A paper read at the June meeting of the S ociety

Ann Arbor a hundred years ago - the Ann Arbor of 1865 - was a youthful town, and by today's standards it was a small town. A score or more of its original settlers were still living, including hearty old John Geddes who could recall when Ann Arbor "had one house, a sort of frame, one story high" and "a log house with no rafters nor roof on it." William S. Maynard, the town's mayor in 1865 and a resident for forty years, delighted in quoting his father's remark when he had learned that young William had purchased several lots in the heart of the village for $12.50: "A fool and his money are soon parted."

According to the 1860 census, the town's total population was slightly over five thousand, some five hundred of whom were students at the University. A writer for the Buffalo Express that year described Ann Arbor as a "nice, quiet, comfortable village. . .It is...situated on high ground, and furnishes numerous and unmistakable evidence of taste and culture on the part of its inhabitants. Its atmosphere is bracing and healthy; it has a fine system of schools; it contains not a little of

the always reliable New England element; in short, it is a good specimen of a flourishing and promising western village."

"Flourishing and promising" - these were words frequently used by Ann Arbor's promoters a century ago as they pointed to the growing population, the new stores, houses, and churches, the expanding University, and the town's increasing civic improvements. One of the latter of which Ann Arborites were especially proud was the Gas Light Company with its 200 customers and no fewer than 25 gas street lamps.

Visitors nearly always remarked about the spaciousness of the town. A former resident returning in 1867 expressed amazement at the new additions that had been platted: "New streets stretch far into what, to the denizens of the rural city, is known as the 'country.' Of these new additions, one peculiarity is that the subdivisions are large, the lots in many cases embracing from half an acre to four or five acres each." A student from Maryland writing home in 1864 observed: "This is a great town we live in. It is laid out in the extensive proportions of a city, several miles square, with streets enough to supply a large population with avenues of circulation. . .The plank sidewalks, the scattering houses, and large yards, orchards, etc., right in town, givethe place a very primitive western air."

A principal reason for the large lots was, of course, the fact that every family of means owned at least one horse, a cow, some poultry, and, in some instances, even a few pigs. Space was therefore required for a barn as well as a house. In January, 1863, a student named J. Marshall Hinchman informed his parents that he had begun to room and board with Judge Lawrence whose home was on what is now Kingsley Street, near Division: "The house is brick and very large; there is a barn, orchard, garden, &c. They have four horses and five cows, besides any quantities of chickens and turkeys. We have a turkey for dinner every Sunday, as there is all most every Sunday someone here visiting. . .My room is a very large one at 30 x 20 - that is the one we study in. We have a little one off from this to sleep in, so that there is no danger of getting sick for want of change of air." His room and board at the Lawrence home cost young Hinchman four dollars per week.

June has always been a gala month in Ann Arbor. The University's graduation exercises, until recently, occurred in June, as did those of the public schools. It was on June 30 that the Ann Arbor High School held its graduation in 1865 in Union School Hall. There were fourteen graduates that year, six of whom were from places other than Ann Arbor. At that time, one attended the exercises not to hear a prominent commencement speaker, but to listen to the graduates deliver their orations. Each of these was an original composition, and it is of interest to note the subjects chosen in 1865 by the eight seniors whose home was Ann Arbor:

"Character" by Ella C. Cropsey
"Hard Knocks" by Sophie Garland
"The Magnitude of the Reformation as an Event in History"
by Joseph M. Gelston
"Fragments" by Nellie J. Maynard
"Victory" by Clara E. Goodrich
"The Influence of Suffering" by Wealthy Whitmore
"We Live in Deeds, not Years" by Linda Lewis
"America" by Emily N. Smith

This day, June 15, 1965, is one that will go down in Ann Arbor's history, for we have just welcomed home the "space twins." What was happening in Ann Arbor exactly 100 years ago today? June 15, 1865, fell on a Thursday and the only remarkable event of the day seems to have been the late afternoon thunder storm that brought an end to a spring drought. The only Ann Arborites who were unhappy with the rain were the ladies of the First Baptist Church who were having a bake sale on the Court House lawn. The Michigan Argus, one of the town's three weekly newspapers, carried the following notice in its next issue: "The Ladies of the First Baptist Church, in this city, desire to acknowledge their obligations to his Honor

Judge Lawrence, and the offi œrs of the Court, for generously affording them a shelter from the storm which so seriously interrupted the festivities which were beigg held in the Court House square on the evening of the 15th last." The Presbyterian ladies, we can be sure, were glad they had planned their "Strawberry Festivel" for the following day.

As the Baptist ladies mentioned, Judge Lawrence was holding Circuit Court a century ago, and the case tried before him on June 15, 1865, involved one Alfred Jackson who was found guilty of stealing wool, pelts, and hides. The Judge sentenced him to three years in Jackson Prison. During the same session, two brothers named Jacques and James Wilson were found guilty of "picking pockets of unsuspecting visitors at Dan Rice's show in Ypsilanti." Jacques Wilson, like Alfred Jackson, was sentenced to Jackson Prison for three years, but for some reason James got only one year. And then there was Alice Brown whom Judge Lawrence sentenced to sixty days in the county jail for "malicious injuries to Railroad Train and passengers therein." The Argus editor explained her crime in layman's language as "throwing stones through the windows."

A century ago, as today, Ann Arbor was known as a medical center, largely because of the work of the Medical School faculty. Dr. Corydon L. Ford was attracting national attention by his success in curing blindness through the removal of cataracts, while Dr. Moses Gunn was pioneering in the use of chloroform. Writing to a friend in October, 1864, a medical student described one of Dr. Ford's operations: "The professor directed her to the railing and let her walk around...to show the condition of the disease and then in a professional manner seated her and went to work. Her husband held her hands & the poor old man could not suppress the tears as he saw his wife's eyes and heard her shriek with pain - his cheeks were as wet with the trickling tears as hers were with blood. The Dr. cut the encroaching eyelids off & took a stitch in them to promote healing." In describing an operation performed by the University's Prof. Gunn in 1862, a local editor noted in amazement: "The young man was put under the effects of chloroform, and has no knowledge of the operation, which occupied about twenty minutes."

No fewer than eighteen physicians resided in Ann Arbor a hundred years ago. Some, it is true, were but self-styled doctors, including Dr. Morris Hale who specialized in "Indian remedies" until 1866, when he built his "Mineral Springs House" on Seventh Street, between Miller and Huron. Four stories high and equipped to accomodate as many as 80 health-seekers at one time, Dr. Hale's establishment was even blessed with a steam elevator.

Then, too, there was Ann Arbor's famous clairvoyant physician, Dr. D. B. Kellogg, who received more mail than anyone else in town. His "Family Remedies," the closely guarded formulas for which had been recorded by Mrs. Kellogg while the good doctor lay in a trance, were even exported to Europe. Perhaps a few lines from the long descriptive poem called "Ann Arbor in Slices" by the town's one "sweet singer," Sophia Pierce, can best acquaint us with the colorful Dr. Kellogg:

Here's the home of the great healer,
  Dr. Kellogg is his name,
As a man of rare discernment
  Written on the scroll of fame.
. . . . . .
Was this famous Dr. Kellogg
  Learned in scientific schools,
Finding skill in curious ailments,
  By strict Esculapian rules?
By no means! And there's the wonder
  Strange and wierd the lessons brought,
He has higher source of knowledge,
  Never by the earthly taught.
Ah! I see your smile derisive;
  But your faith he will engage,

For no matter where the patient,
Only give the name and age.
By a keen and searching insight
Are the complications riven,
In his strange examinations -
Only in clairvoyance given.

Another Ann Arbor physician who was known internationally a century ago was Dr. Alvin W. Chase. In fact, it was "Dr. Chase's Recipe Book" that acquainted tens of thousands of people with the placename, Ann Arbor. Printed by the doctor at his Steam Printing Plant at what is now the corner of North Main and Miller, hailed as the largest printing establishment of the west when it was built in 1864, the Recipe Book had sold 900,000 copies by 1878. In 1869, Dr. Chase sold both the plant and the publishing rights to his book to Rice Beal, editor and publisher of what became the town's leading newspaper of the 1870's, the Peninsular Courier. Mr. Beal's status in Ann Arbor is suggested by the fact that when the new Methodist Church was completed in 1866, at the astronomical cost of $65,000, he was the highest bidder when the pews were auctioned. For $800, Mr. Beal obtained the privilege of sitting with his wife and son in the choice spot in the new church.

In her "Ann Arbor in Slices," Sophia Pierce also included a few laudatory lines on Rice Beal, with a detailed description of his sumptuous office:

In his sanctum we may find him
Like a prince upon his throne.
This is sacred from intrusion
While he seeks to be alone;
Furnished with all modern comforts,
Carpets, sofas, pictures rare,
Shelves of books in costly bindings
Birds preserved in greatest care.
In a bathroom quite convenient
Health and comfort he can find -
Water hot or cold to suit him,
Everything for heart or mind.

This interesting reference to Mr. Beal's bathroom calls to mind an Ann Arbor product introduced in the late 1860's that brought both wealth and fame to its inventor and manufacturer, E. J. Knowlton. This was "The Universal Bath," which, according to Knowlton's advertisements, brought bathing "within the means of the average family." Made of white rubber, stretched on a jointed frame, and priced at $25.00, it could "be used in sitting room, bedroom, or even parlor. . .By various simple modifications of this one vessel, it affords sponge, hip, spine, half and full baths; small for a child and large for an adult and takes but little water. It is soft, pliable and grateful to the touch." The Argus of September 25, 1868, hailed the invention, noting: "To take a satisfactory bath from a washbowl is not an easy thing, and the inconvenience is an obstacle which causes such general neglect that, a by no means small number of bodies, are guiltless of being touched by water for weeks at a time. The hands and face get a washing daily, the feet once a week, perhaps, while the territory between is as innocent of contact with water as the stomach of a toper."

President Angell, who came to Ann Arbor in 1871, once observed that there was one service he had rendered the town for which he expected never to receive appropriate credit. "One of the conditions he imposed for his coming to the Michigan post was the placing of a water closet in the President's house. It was the first one in Ann Arbor."

The main topic of conversation in Ann Arbor in June, 1865, was, of course, the almost daily return of Michigan regiments from the War - the war that had cost the lives of almost 500 young men from Washtenaw County alone. "The Michigan regiments are rapidly returning to the State," the Argus reported on June 16, 1865,

"and the boys being discharged are becoming citizens again. . .They are all welcomed and fed in Detroit, a commodious room having been fitted up for the purpose by the gentlemanly Superintendent of the Michigan Central R.R., R. N. Rice, Esq. This week a number of ladies of our city are in possession of the room and acting as hosts, the provisions being collected here and sent to them daily."

As in every small town, Ann Arborites in 1865 were concerned about small matters as well as large. The Argus of June 16, 1865, carried the following news item: "Mrs. Dr. Denton is replacing the dilapidated sidewalk in front of her residence, corner of Huron andFourth Streets, with a fine plank walk six feet wide. There are quite a number of citizens 'around town" who should profit by the worthy example and 'mend their ways.'" There were frequent references in the town's newspapers a hundred years ago to the poor sidewalks. Almost without exception, they were plank sidewalks, and property owners were supposed to keep them in repair. "Many of the sidewalks along our principal streets are in such a dilapidated condition as to endanger the limbs of every pedestrian necessarily out after nightfall," complained the Argus on August 24, 1866. Furthermore, the ladies are continually tearing their skirts - whether muslin, silk or satin - on the spike heads of ends of up-springing planks." (Perhaps it is not inappropriate to note that it would take a rather long spike to tear a lady's skirt today.)

One of the reasons why Ann Arbor's sidewalks were in such bad condition a century ago was that students were constantly tearing them up. For example, the Argus of June 28, 1867, reported: "On Friday night last, a large number of students - said to be freshmen celebrating their expected promotion - made night hideous with their howls and tore up considerable sidewalk on Huron, Division, and State Streets. It is time that such lawless over-stepping of joy was checked, and if the faculty of the university cannot instill good manners and a respect for the rights of citizens into the minds of the young men under their charge, the city authorities will be called upon to interfere."

The old was beginning to give way to the new, however, for it was noted in the Argus of June 23, 1865, that: "The Messrs. Gregory are engaged in putting down a fine flagstone walk on both fronts of their new block. It is the first laid in our city, and marks the advance of improvement."

Students found as many ways to get into trouble a century ago as they do today. Besides tearing up sidewalks, a favorite trick was to pump the town pump dry, or that of some private property owner. "Pumping" was the cause of more than one student being placed on probation. Even automobile stealing had its counterpart a century ago, as witness this item from a local paper: "A valuable horse belonging to William Burke was unhitched from a post near the Methodist Church on Sunday evening last, by some unknown parties, and no trace of the animal could be found till next morning, when it was discovered near the livery stable on the corner of Washington and Fourth Streets, there being strong indications of its have been driven all night. Mr. Burke is somewhat anxious to ascertain who played him this trick."

One more bit of evidence that student mis-conduct is no 20th century phenomenon is found in a letter which President Angell wrote to his father-in-law on September 27, 1871, at the end of his first week as President of the University of Michigan: "Well, tonight finishes my first week of experience in my new work. . .The crucial test was, however, in handling the students in chapel. It has been the traditionary custom for years for the students to be very noisy before and after devotional exercises, and disorderly during them. The first few days of the year the Sophomores and Freshmen have usually thrown missiles at each other, shouted, sung, &c, &c., so that the chapel was a bedlam. The first day this year before the faculty went in, the usual disgraceful performances went on. Dr. Cocker officiated. After the services I made a brief address. I was very cordially received, but while going out, the boys were very noisy. The next day I went in early. Some two Sophomores began to pitch nuts at the Freshmen. I kindly, but firmly requested

them to desist. They obliged instantly. There was some shouting, which I did not then interfere with. The janitor afterwards picked up a large collection of missiles which they left quietly under their seats. The next day there was no throwing and no noise. Tappan, Haven and Frieze had all tolerated this disorder, as incurable. Perhaps it will reappear, but I feel hopeful about controlling it."

Writers describing Ann Arbor a century ago nearly always emphasized the town's lack of manufacturing establishments. It comes as something of a surprise, therefore, to read the following in an 1874 atlas of Washtenaw County: "There are in Ann Arbor...six breweries manufacturing about 9,000 barrels annually, two tanneries, two foundries, four planing-mills, a woolen factory, two furniture manufacturies, doing a business of $30,000 to $40,000 per annum, and an agricultural works turning out some $50,000 worth of machines, etc., annually. The river furnishes a fine water-power, which...runs three grist-mills and other factories. There is also a steam grist mill."

Perhaps there was a relationship between the three breweries, with their annual production of 9,000 barrels, and the fact that Ann Arbor became a center in the temperance movement following the Civil War. A student writing home in 1867 reported: "The Temperance folks here are having quiet a revival. They have found out that it is against the law of the State of Michigan to sell alcoholic liquors in quantities less than 2½ gallons. . .The Good Templars and the other temperance societies are going to shut up all the 'whiskey cellers' and so-called restaurants in town. There are fifty-five such places here." Apparently this student did not exaggerate, for the city directory of 1872 lists 49 establishments under the heading "Saloons."

Private letters provide some of our most candid bits of social history, such as Marshall Hinchman's letter to his mother of January 11, 1863: "We had quite a fire here last Friday night, the first one since I have been here. All most all the city turned out to see it; all the men were so curious to see how a house on fire looked that they ran off and left the two engines to be drawn by half a dozen boys. Consequently the house was destroyed before...the engines got there." Another student writing in March, 1865, reported: "Our town was thrown into as much excitement the other evening by the burning of a barn as New York would have been by the destruction of a whole square. It was the first fire of the winter & students worked side by side with the "roughs" on the engines, and drank out of the same whiskey barrel. After the fire was partially extinguished and a neighboring block of houses secured from danger - all hands indulged in the luxury of a free fight, which I did not remain to witness, as I escorted a lady to the scene."

No Ann Arbor letter writer of the 1860's provided the local historian with more interesting observations than did the estranged wife of a former instructor at the University named Elizabeth Dubois. Writing to Mrs. Andrew D. White in May, 1864, she reported upon the arrival of the Rev. Mr. Haven, successor to President Tappan: "Our President's house must make a delightful impression upon the cultivated men who are likely to visit the University. In place of the fine engravings of master pieces of art which formerly adorned the parlors, the walls are now beautified by one large staring picture of the Methodist Bishops 'all in a row.'. . . I heard the other day that Mrs. Haven had said that she thought Mrs. Tappan must have been a very lazy woman to keep two girls. . .Dr. Haven drives about in an open buggy with a poor little rat of a horse - Oh, altogether we are growing very primitive." In February, 1865, Mrs. Dubois reported upon an aspect of University social life: "The Senate Socials have begun - I believe the lovers of the new administration think them a great institution. The first was given by Dr. Haven, and he read the paper - his subject was "The Origin of Public Opinion." . . . The second was held at Dr. Williams' and the paper was read by Prof. Olney ('old Toughey,' the students call him) and was strictly mathematical. The Society belongs exclusively to the members of the University, so I cannot give so full a report as I could wish. I heard, however, that in the discussion which followed Dr.

Haven's paper (you must know that they discuss for an hour after the Paper, and before the supper) poor Herbert Spencer was severely handled by Prof. Chapin and Ex-Prof. Ten Brook - the former of whom had not read Herbert Spencer, and the latter of whom could not understand him if he should read him a dozen times. Meantime the ladies sit by, and say nothing, till their husbands and friends have disposed of the literary part of the performance, when they come in on the small talk."

The passage of a hundred years has wrought great change in our town, yet when we look at the bird's eye view of Ann Arbor that was engraved in 1866, we have little difficulty orienting ourselves. We are even able to pick out a few landmarks still standing today - the President's house, William S. Maynard's home which is now the wooden portion of the Elks building on Main Street, the Frieze house. And as one thumbs through the old city directories, it is pleasant to note among the advertisements a few names that are still familiar - C. Eberbach & Co. ("Druggists and Apothecaries"), J. Haller ("Dealer in Fine Watches, Clocks, Rich Jewelery and Spectacles"), Hutzel & Co. ("Dealers in Paint, Oils, Glass & Groceries"), and F. Muehlig & Sons ("Manufacturers and Wholesale Dealers in Furniture & Upholstery, and Undertaking in all its Branches"). And there is still the University. Tuition has gone up a bit along with room and board, and the town has lost its "primitive western air," but perhaps an occasional student may still write home, "This is a great town we live in!"

PROGRAMS FOR WHICH NO MANUSCRIPT WAS OBTAINED

The December, 1964, Meeting:

Indians of Southeast Michigan at the Time of the White Settlement.

By Mrs. Helen Hornbeck Tanner

The January, 1965, Meeting:

Physical Geography in the Settlement of Washtenaw County.

By Prof. Kenneth C. McMurry, U. of M.

The April, 1965, Meeting:

The War of 1812 in Michigan.

By Albert T. Klyberg

The May, 1965, Meeting:

A Tour of the Estate of Dr. C. Howard Ross, 180 Underdown, Ann Arbor. Illustrative of Medicinal Herbs and Plants Used by Early Settlers in Washtenaw County.

ANN ARBOR, MICH.
1965

Miss Eileen Harrison
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Mich.